**Stoppage of Irrigation projects in states**

2793. SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of irrigation projects in various States which have been stopped there were statewise due to violation of Central Government's forest policy conservation of forest;

(b) what is the number of such projects which have stopped working or have not commenced their work due to not clearance from the Central Government; and

(c) since when such projects have stopped working and when the clearance is expected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN): (a) to (c) The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 provides for prior approval of the Central Government for diversion of forest land to non-forest use, including irrigation projects. The Central Government have not approved 5 proposals from the State of Madhya Pradesh, and one each from the States of Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, relating to irrigation projects, as the State authorities had initiated diversion of forest land to non-forest use without prior approval of the Central Government.

**Indian newspapers/weeklies etc. banned in Sri Lanka**

2794. SRI V. GOPALSAMY:
DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian newspapers/weeklies banned in Sri Lanka during the past three years;

(b) the number of Indian journalists barred entry into Sri Lanka;

(c) the number of Indian journalists detained in Sri Lanka; and

(d) if the answer to parts (b) and (c) be in the affirmative; the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) to (d) According to our information, in the last three years, one issue of an Indian newspaper was banned from entry into Sri Lanka. One Indian journalist was denied entry, and one journalist was detained in Sri Lanka.

Entry was denied to Shri Sam Rajappa of "The Statesman" in July-August 1983. The detained journalist was Shri Krishan Anand of PTI who was subsequently released and the case against him withdrawn, after he had been kept in detention for a brief period.

**Festival exhibits**

2795. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in 'Hindu' dated 30th April, 1985 under the caption "Festival exhibits held up";

(b) if so, what were specific reasons for the same;

(c) whether any enquiry has been ordered; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The exhibits of Mr. Nekchand could not be airlifted by Air India on April 24, 1985 due to late delivery of materials to Air India and lack of timely information regarding crate-wise

dimension and weight of the consignment which was necessary to plan palletisation in respect of available cargo space. This was ascertained on the basis of enquiry made by the National Council of Science Museums, Calcutta and Air India.

(b) Does not arise.

**Rural Population and Rural Labourer below Poverty line**

2796. SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what was the percentage of the rural population and rural labourer below the poverty line at the end of Fifth Five Year Plan;

(b) what is the percentage of rural population and rural labourer below the poverty line at the end of Sixth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if the percentage of those below the poverty line has increased, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) has conducted quinquennial Household Consumer Expenditure Surveys in 1977-78 (32nd Roud) and 1983 (38th Round). The reports on these Surveys give consumption level for different items by Expenditure class and also the number of Households with their composition by Expenditure class. The results contained in the reports have been utilised by the Planning Commission for the estimation of the percentage and number of people below the poverty line. However, it is not possible to indicate from the results of these surveys the percentage of rural labourers below the poverty line separately as they are reckoned as part of the rural population.

On the basis of these surveys the percentage of rural population (including rural labour) below the powerty line has been estimated as follows:-

| | |
|---|---|
| 1977-78 | |
| Terminal year of the Fifth Plan | 51.2% (Revised) |
| 1983-84 | 40·4%(Provisional) |

The figures for the terminal year 1984-85 of the Sixth Plan are not available.

(c) Does not arise.

**I.T.D.C. Policy for development of Hotel Industry**

2797. SHRI L. GANESAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any change in policy of the ITDC in developingg its hotel industry during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to construct hotels in collaboration with the private agencies;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) what are the cities where Government propose to construct yatri-niwas and hotels during the Seventh Five Year Plan

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) ITDC has at present no proposal to construct hotel projects in collaboration with any private arise.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Subject to availability of funds, the Central Department of Tourism proposes to construct at least one yatri niwas at a selected centre in each state in collaboration with States/Unon territories during the VII Plan period.

During VII Five Year Plan ITDC proposes construction of hotels at Agra and Gulmarg besides putting up joint venture